



City of Fairfield

Residential Generator Checklist

Step 1: Obtain Planning approval for setbacks and noise ordinance

Step 2: Obtain Building approval

All generators must be reviewed to verify code compliance, method of installation, and placement. Provide 3 copies of the following documents:

Site Plan:

- Stationary and portable emergency generators must be located a minimum of ten (10) feet away from any property line.
- Show location of generator with distances from property line to equipment. Placement on easements are prohibited.
- List distance from any structure or wall from back of generator, top, sides and front. Exhaust per NFPA37 shall be a minimum of 5' from any building opening (windows, doors, vents, etc). Follow manufacturer required clearances if greater.) See sample diagram on back.
- Show location of gas lines from meter to equipment including the size, type of fuel gas supply piping and distance. If propane, also include location of tank.
- Show location of transfer switch, disconnect, raceway(s).

Electrical Line Diagram:

- Show location of generator, transfer switch, disconnect, and raceway(s).
- Size of conductors and size/material of raceway(s) used.
- Grounding and bonding requirements for separately derived systems.
- Generators shall be equipped with a disconnect for service of equipment that must be within 50' maximum or within eyesight.
- Emergency circuits shall be permanently marked as such.
- Signage required at the main service: ***This home has a generator used for backup. Please ensure to shutoff transfer switch to ensure complete power shutdown.***

Portable Generators with Manual Transfer Switch (additional information):

- Requires an interlock system which prevents inadvertent interconnection of normal (utility) and emergency (generator) power.
- Receptacle outlet for connection of generator to house is to be on the exterior with a weatherproof cover and 50' maximum or within sight of the generator.
- Disconnection may be an extension cord. Extension cords shall be of adequate wire size for the amperage serviced. (Example: 20 amp, 12-gauge wire, 30 amp, 10-gauge wire, 50 amp., 6-gauge wire.)

Specifications:

- Generator and transfer switch manufacturer's specifications and installation instructions.

Sound Requirements:

Portable or stationary emergency generators used to provide backup power during a power outage or an emergency, must not exceed 70 dBA during full speed diagnostics and normal operations when measured at 21 feet with no loads. Testing of generators shall be limited to the hours of 7am and 10pm on any day and limited to the duration specified by the manufacturer’s recommendations. An “emergency” means any city, county, or state declared emergency, or any interruption of utility power due to preventive utility shut-off measures or due to damage to utility infrastructure from accidents, earthquakes, fires, floods, storms, winds, or other acts.

EXAMPLE DIAGRAM:

No openings into house within 5 feet from any point of the generator (top view).

Follow generator manufacturer guidelines if more clearance is specified.



Clearance from the ends and front of the generator shall be 36 inches minimum.
This includes shrubs, trees and any kind of vegetation.

Overhead clearance shall be 48 inches minimum from any structure, overhang, or projections from the wall. The generator shall be located outside and shall not be placed under a deck or other structure that is closed in and would limit or contain air flow.